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A Diſcouerie

OF THE VNNATVRALL AND TRAITEROVS Conſpiracie of Scottiſch Papiſts,

againſt God, his Kirk, their natiue Cuntrie, the Kingis Majeſties perſone and eſtate;

SET DOWNE, AS IT WAS CONfeſſed and ſubſcriuit be M. GEORGE KER, *yet remaining in Priſone, and* DAVID GRAHAME *of Fentrie, iuſtly executed for his treaſon in Edinburgh, the 15. of Februarie. 1592.*

Wherevnto are annexed, certaine intercepted Letters, written by ſundrie of that factioun to the ſame purpoſe.

Printed and publiſched at the ſpecial commaund of the Kingis Maieſtie.

AT EDINBVRGH
PRINTED BY ROBERT WALDEgraue, *Printer to the Kingis Maieſtie*
Cum Priuilegio Regali.

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TO THE READER.

MAnie and dangerous points (good Reader) of vnnaturall & treasonable practises of Scottisch Papists, or (as they wil needes be styled) Catholicke Romanis, against God, his Kirk, their natiue Countrie, and the Kings Maiesties estate and person, being discouered by Gods gret and mercifull prouidence, partly by the depositiones and confessiones of some of the practisers themselues, & namely, Maister GEORGE KER, *quha zit for that cause is imprisoned: &* DAVID GRAHAME *of* FENTRIE *iustly execute for the same also, in Edinburgh the 15. of Februarie. 1592. and partly by diuers letters of sundrie of the practisers intercepted at diuers times. It is thought good by the Kings Maiestie and his honourable Counsaill, that the most substantiall pointis of the said depositiones, should be faithfully taken out of the originalls, quhilk wer deponed and confessed by the saide M.* GEORGE, *&* DAVID GRAHAME *of* FENTRIE, *before the honorable persones depute by the Kingis Maiestie and his hienes counsall to that effect, and subscriued with their awin hands, and for the greater ease of the memorie of the Reder, should be summarly gathered into this forme following, quhilk otherwise were scattered heir and there in their depositiones according to the occasioun of the diuerse demaundes at diuerse dyats: for the reddier taking vp whereof, the times of the depositiones and persons deponers, seuerally and coniunct-*

ly as the matter craueth, ſhould be ſet downe in marginal quotationes: As alſo, that ſome of the moſt remarkable letters of the practiſers, ſhuld be ioined heirunto word by word, quhilkis wer intercepted with Maiſter GEORGE KER, and the reſt decyphered and tranſlated as after ſhall appeare, and ſo the whole togither to be imprinted, and ſet foorth vnto the viewe of the world, to the glory of Gods Maieſtie (the onely reuealer of theſe ſecreits) to the comfort & edification of his kirk, & the perpetual detectiõ & ſhame of the vnnatural enemie. Al whilk things are ſo faithfully done in this volume following, that no man how impudent ſoeuer he be, can iuſtly challenge it with any falſifeing, forgeing, or changeing one thing for an other, to the wreſting of the originall depoſitiones in any the leaſt ſubſtantiale part thereof, as by conferring this extract with the firſt records, quhilkis ar in the Clerkis handis, moſt euidently ſhall appear, if any liſt to looke vpon them. Thou art therfore (good Reader) gretly to conſider the goodnes of our God in this cace, ſo watchfull ouer his Kirk, for the good and ſafetie therof, by diſcouering ſik deep and dangerous practiſes of the deadly enemie, euen then, whẽ as we thinking nothing leſſe, ar redy to be ſurpriſed by ther cloſſe courſes ſo cunningly & craftely conueied, as we may well ſay with the Prophet, our ſoule is eſcaped, euen as a bird out of the ſnare of the Fowlers, &c. As alſo, thou art to be wakened vp, to the eirneſt conſideration of the diligence, force and crueltie of our ennemies (quhilk yet is nothing abated, but more eiger preſently than euer heirtofore, to atchieue their deueliſh intent) and no waies to truſt them or be ſecure, as though they wer ſleeping, and minding no danger to vs, while in the meane time, ſo deiply and deadly they conſpire within and without, with ſo great force and craft againſt our Religioun, lands and liues, that they dare be bold in their

pride,

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pride, to assure the Spainzeard of noresistãce heir to their cruell interprise, as by their awin bragging wordes heirafter in their Letters euidently shall appeir: Zea, al kindly natiue Scottish mẽ, & trew louers of the Christian religion, ought spedilie & substantially to concur, to the withstanding & ouerthrowing of this our common enemie, within our awin bowels, whose vnnaturalnes, barbaritie & hie attempt, can be matched with no example domestick or forrain that we read off. whether we consider the cruel barbarousnes of the Spainzeards to whome they haue sold their cuntrie, K. & people (wherof let the monument written by one of their awin Fryers against the Spanish crueltie, beside experiẽce whereuer they ar masters be a witnes) or whether we consider their most deceitfull dealing, couering their most bloodie purposes with cloak of most tender friendship, quhilk most closely they haue counterfit by subscription to the trew Religion, by hearing of the worde preached, and common profession thereof with vs, and participatioun of the Sacraments, by bandes, finally, affiniteis, othes, and al attestatiouns and lawes sacred and humane that might seeme to procure credite amongest men, and many other thinges to be enlarged in time and place, as mens callings in Kirk and policie craues: Consider, & considder againe (good Reader) what should be the estate of all honest and godly men, their wiues & daughters, the estate of Kirk, common weale and Prince, zea and of thay miserable wretches themselues, gif their purpose to mak the Spainzeard our maister (for no mans seruand nor fellow wil that proud beast be) suld tak effect: O Miserie, miserie, miserie vnspeakeable, especially to themselfis, if their wofull purpose succeede to their minde and far proceeded practises. Wherefore yet again, it is hie time and more, that all good men and louers of their natiue Cuntrie be wakened vp to trewe repentance,

pentance to the Lord, who so heauilie threatneth, and in a part alreddy striketh: and to a diligent and substantiall concurring every one according to his calling and place, both in Land & Burgh, to withstand these desperate attempts before they passe remedie, and timely to preuent the farther danger, by assisting the execution of Iustice vpon the rest of the detected traitors without respect of persones, that so wee labouring to take evill out of Israell, the Lord who hath so notablie begun the work, may bring it to an happie end, to his glory & our comforts, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * *

A DISCO-

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A DISCOVERIE OF THE VN-NATVRALL AND TRATEROVS PRA-*ctiſes of the Scottiſh Papiſts, aganis God, his Kirk,* their natiue Cuntrie, and the Kings Ma-*ieſties perſone and eſtate.*

BE the Confeſſiouns and depoſitiouns of Maiſter George Ker, and Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, It is diſcouerit, That in March 1591. Maiſter William Creichtoun (quha hes remanit thir twa zeirs bygan in Spain) Sent to Maiſter Iames Gordoun Ieſuit, father brother to George now Erl of Huntlie, Ane gentil man callit Maiſter William Gordoun, Son to the Laird of Abirzeldie with Letteris, to let the Catholikes heir vnderſtand, quhat trauell Maiſter William Creichtoun had tane with the King of Spain ſen his cumming there: And that the ſaid King had opened to him, that he had bene deſſauit be Engliſhmen, and wald fra that time furth, embrace the aduiſe and way, quhilk the ſaid Maiſter William wald ſhew him, baith for Inuading of England, and alteration of Religioun within this Realme. And for that purpois, the ſaid Maiſter William, crauit be this Gentilman, to be ſent to him ſa mony blankis and procuratiouns, as culd be had of Nobil men heir, for the aſſurance of his traffique.

Deponit be Maiſter George Ker 3. 5. and 6 of Februarie, 1592.

Vpon the ſicht and reſſait of the quhilkis blanks, ſent with ſum vther diſcreit Gentilman, hauing the Nobill mens commiſſioun, to be filled vp with ſik conditiouns, as ſuld be capitulat and aggreit vpon, betuix the King of Spaine, and Maiſter William

Deponit be maiſter George Ker, the 3. 5. and 6 of Februarie. 1592.

And deponit be Dauid Grahame of Fentrie the 13 of Feb. 1592.

William Creichtoun, quhilkis suld haue seruit as pledgis and suirteis for the subscriueris part, at the Landing heir of the Spanische Armie: It wes concludit, that thair suld haue bin sent out of Spain, about the latter end of the spring, in this pre sent zeir 1592. Ane Armie of threttie thousand men, to haue landit either at Kirkcudbricht, or at the mouth of Clyde, accor ding to the opportunitie of the wind, quhair thay suld haue in trenschit, and fortifeit thame selfis for the assurance of thame and thair schippis.

Deponit be Master George Ker 3. of Feb. 1592.

Deponit be master George Ker 3. of Februarie. 1592. and be Fentrie. 14. of Feb. 1592.

And first of all, money suld haue ben sent to the Catholikes heir, for raising of forces to supplie the said Armie: Quhairof, four or fiue thousand suld haue remanit within this Cuntrie, quha with the fortificatioun, and assistance of the Nobill men, Catholikes, thair frendis, and sik vther forces, as the Spanish money wald raise, suld haue immediatly after thair landing, begun to alter thair Religioun, presently profest within this Realme, or at lest procuret libertie of conscience, and Papistrie to haue bin erectit heir: And the rest of the Armie suld haue past towarde England the neerest way, fra thair landing to the bordour.

Deponit be Fentrie 13. of Februarie. 1592.

Deponit be master George Ker 3 of Feb. 1592.

Deponit be Fentrie 13. of Februarie, 1592.

Thir Letteris sent fra Maister William Creichtoun, being concredite be Maister Iames Gordoun to Maister Robert Abrecrumby, wer schawn be him to Dauid Grahame of Fentrie at Abirnethie, in Aprill. 1592.

Deponit be Dauid Grahame of Fentrie the 13. of Feb. 1592.

And for effectuating of this mater, it was anis thocht maist conuenient, that schir Iames Chesholme, quha wes then ane of his Maiesteis Maister howshaldis, suld haue gone to Spain with this Commissioun, in respect, he wes vtherwise bownit towardis his Uncle Maister William Chesholme (callit Bischop of Dumblane) For Schir Iames had the first credeit of this erand with the Nobill men, as he declarit to Dauid Grahame of Fentrie, that he had delt with the Erlis of Huntlie, and Errol, and conferrit with Maister George Ker, anent this turne, about the time of the last Parliament, haldin in Edinburgh in Iunii. 1592. as alswa, intercommuned again in his awin house, with the same Maister George in October. 1592. touching the hail heidis of this dispatche: Bot Schir Iames

not

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not being abill to be sa soone reddy, and Maister George Ker being bownit off the Cuntrie, it wes thocht best, that the same Commissioun suld be geuin to him, and that he suld vndertak the carying of the saidis Letteris: And swa he wes imployed in that errand, the rather, because baith his guddames were Creichtouns. Deponit be ventrie 13. of Februarie 1592.

Thairestir, Maister George being bownit to this Iornay, and reddy to mak saill out of the Fairly Raid at the West sey bank, vpon the 27. of December. 1592. Then (be Gods prouidence) the said Maister George wes apprehendit in the Ile of Cumray, and with him thair wes interceptit sindrie missiue Letteris directit to this purpois. Amangis quhilk, thair wes aucht blankis, quhairof ane is subscriuit.

De vostre Majestie tres humble & tresobesant seruiteur, Guilliame compte de *Anguss*.

Ane vther blank is subscriuit.

De vostre Majestie, tres humble, & tresobesant seruiteur, Francoys compte de *Erroll*.

And thir twa blankis wer baith procurit of thame, be Schir Iames Chesholme, in thair awin ludgeingis in Edinburgh, at the time of the last Parliament in Iunii. 1592. Deponit be Master George Ker 3. of Feb. 1592.

Ane vther blank is subscriuit.

Cuilielmus *Angusie* comes.

Ane vther blank is subscriuit.

Franciscus *Errollie* Comes.

Quhilkis wer baith procurit of thame be Maister Robert Abircrumby, quha wes the cheifest trauellair in that matter, in October. 1592. Deponit be ventrie 13 of Februarie. 1592. Deponit be master George Ker 3 of Feb. 1592.

Ane vther blank is subscriuit.

Georgius Comes de Huntlie.

And ane vther is subscriuit.

Ceorgius Comes de Huntlie.

Deponit be master George Ker 3. of Februarie, 1592.

Quhilkis wer baith with the haill blankis proponit, first to the Erle of Huntlie, be Maister George Ker in Strathbogy, at his passing thair.

Deponit be master George Ker, 9. of Feb. 1592. and be Fenrie, 14. of Feb. 1592.

Quhilkis sax seueral blankis before specifeit, suld haue bein all filled with missiue Letteris, be the aduise of Maister William Creichtoun.

And the vther twa blankis, makand out the number of aucht, wer baith subscriuit in the midds of twa oppin throuchis of Paper in this maner.

Guillielmus Angusie Comes

Georgius comes de Huntlie.

Franciscus Errollie Comes.

Patricius Gordoun de Auchindoun Miles.

Deponit be Master George Ker 8. of Feb. 1592.

Quhilkis twa last blankis, were first subscriuit be the Erle of Huntlie, and Patrike Gordoun in October 1592. And thairefter being sent with Maister Robert Abircrumby, to the Erlis, of Angus, and Erroll, wer subscriuit be thame in the same moneth of October 1592. And thir twa blankis suld haue bein filled vp with procurationns, and quhatsoeuer suld haue bein thocht meit, be the said Maister William Creichton, for the avowance of that quhilk Maister George Ker had in direction and credeit of the subscriuaris, quhilk credeit he resaunit fra the Erle of Huntlie, be the report of Maister Iames Gordoun, and fra the Erlis of Angus and Erroll, be thame selfis in Edinburgh, in the beginning of October. 1592.

Deponit be M. George Ker. 5. of Feb. 1592.

And the summe of this his credit, wes ane assurance, that thir Nobill men suld rais ane power of Horsmen, and meit the

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Spaniſche Airmie at thair landing, and reciprokly to aſſiſt, accumpanie, and conuoy thame in thair paſſing to England, be all the forces thay culd procure vpon the King of Spains charges: And thir Nobill men ſubſcriueris, take the burding on thame, and interponit thair bandis, for the concurrance of the haill Catholikes of Scotland in this cauſe, and thocht it meit amangis thame ſelfis for the better ſecrecie, that nane vther ſuld be crauit to bind for this erand, bot thay three.

Deponit be Maſter George Ker the 5. and 6. of Februarie. 1592

With thir aucht blankis ſubſcriuit, as ſaid is, thair wes interceptit ſtampis in wax; of the Erle of Angus ſeillis of Armes ſax; of the Erle of Huntleis ſeillis of Armes foure; and of the Erll of Errollis ſeilis of Armes three.

Dauid Grahame of Fentrie deponit, that he met ſindrie times ſen this purpois was in hand, with Maiſter Robert Abircrumby, as namely, that the firſt knawledge he had of this purpois was be the ſaid Maſter Robert in Dunfermling: and thairefter in the Caſtle of Striuiling, before Maiſter George Ker his preparatioun to his Journay, quhair maiſter Robert ſchew him, that this Commiſſionn wes to be geuin to the ſaid Maiſter George, to caus fill the blankis with Maiſter William Creichtouns auiſe, and that he wes to deliuer the ſame blankis, with the vther Letteris to him, quha wes to depairt and carie with him all this meſſage.

Deponit be Fentrie 13. of Februarie. 1592.

Deponit be Fentrie 14. of Februarie. 1592.

Like as the ſaidis blankis and Letteris, quhilkis wer procurit for that erand, wer all deliuerit be Maiſter Iames Gordoun, and maiſter Robert Abircrumby, to maiſter George Ker, to be carryit be him to maiſter William Creichtoun Ieſuiſt: And to be filled vp at the diſcretioun and directioun of the ſaid maiſter William, and of maiſter Iames Tyrie, quha wes beſt acquented with the effairis thair.

FOR

FOR THE VNDERSTANDING OF THE borrowit and counterfait Names, that occurris in the Letteris following, (good Reader) thou ſall find thame interpreit on the margent, quhair thay ar pointit out by this Marke, * quhilk interpretatiouns are conteined in the originall depoſitiouns of the practiſaris, and in ſome of thair intercepted Letteris.

A Letter directit from an Engliſh Ieſuiſt, and intercepted with M. GEORGE KER, *the 27. of December. 1592.*

GVde Father, the incloſed to my Lord, I pray zow reide, and tak it as written to zour ſelfe: quhat I writ to him, I writ to zow; quhat I craue of him, I craue of zow; quhat I hope of him, I hope of zow, as of my Patroun and Pedagog in ſpiritualibus; as of a man, quhais diſcretioun and moderatioun I haue well experimented, in al caſes and at al times. Gif I had ſo far ouerlaſched, and gone beſide my compas, as ſome gude fellowis wald imagine, zit I wonder that ſome gude men, baith in their awin conceits, and vther meanis ſpirituall, wil admit nō excuſe, no ſatisfactioun, no purgatioun: quhen S. Paul to the Galathians, In maiſt euident delictes ſettis doume this reull amangis the perfect and ſpirituall: Fratres et ſi præoccupatus fuerit homo in aliquo delicto, vos qui ſpirituales eſtis huiuſmodi inſtruite in ſpiritu lenitatis, conſiderans teipſum, ne & tu tenteris. If I had ſpoken with zow at my laſt being in Italie, as I wel hoped, I had perhaps maid a better concluſion of my buſines thair, than I did to my awin content, and all my friendis ſatisfaction, quhilk hope, for all theſe ſtormes, I will neuer giue ouer, and when I leaue by zour meanis to be vnder the guid habering, I will write to zow of that ſubiect. The Lord Seytoun, in quhais houſe I ſoiorn ſumtimes,

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times, ſalutis zow. Of the effayris of the Catholikes heir, I leaue it to thame to write and relate, by quhais meanis theſe Letters ſalbe conuoyit. My Lord Seytoun hes ane hauen of his awin, quhilk may be hereafter very commodious for our Miſſiones. Commend me I pray zow to F. Barth. Pere &c. Maiſter Dudley Ilper Knicht, and Iohn Thules, quhilk vpon ſum ſudden puſches of perſecutioun, mak thair repair hither, ar in health, and ſalute zou. And Maiſter Syall a Prieſt dyet here laitly in Edinburgh. Loue me and pray for me, I beſeik zow al, ſolito. And gif zow ſend ony into theſe pairtis, let thame come furneiſſed with as ampil facultreis as zou may: Let them inquyre for ane, M. Ionas, quhilk will be a token betuix vs. Our L. bles and ſend vs to meit anis or we die. Seytoun this 2. of October. 1592.

Yours euer maiſt aſſured,
Ioan Cecilie.

Blank on the back.

A Letter direct it from the Erll of ANGVS, *al written & ſubſcriuit with his awin hand, interceptit with M.* GEORGE KER, *the 27. of December. 1592.*

My maiſt affectioned Commendationes premittit, this preſent is onely to knaw of zour weilfare and freindis, and of the eſtait of matters quhair ze remain, and to be ane teſtimonie of my good affectioun towartis zow. For God be praiſit, gif zow wer in this Cuntrie, I could do zow greater pleaſour, nor I was able to do befoir, albeit gude will inlakit not at na time as zee knaw. The preſent * bearar can informe zow of ſick thingis as occurris with vs: for wee are heir daylie ſubiect to alterationn. Zee may credeit him as my ſelfe, for ſo his vertewis dois merite. It is not needfull I trouble zow with his recommendatioun, ſeeing he is to zow that he is, ze knaw his honeſtie and gude intention, and the cauſis of his pairting, to quhais ſufficiencie referring the reſt, My * M. Georg Ker.

harty salutatiouns, and my bedfellowis, with all our company zoung and auld remembrit vnto zow and zour gude company: Committis zow with thame to the protectioun of God. Edinburgh the tenth of October eftir our compt. 1592.

Yours euer at power
Anguss.

To M. Willis Creichtoun

Blank on the back. *

A Letter direct fra M. IAMES GORDOVN *to M.* VVILLIAM. CREICHTOVN, *interceptit with M.* GEORGE KER, *the 17. of December. 1592.*

M. Georg Ker

TRaist Freind, efter maist hartlie commendatiouns, zour Freindis that ar heir, hes directit this present bearer * to zow, for ful resolutioun off al zour effairis in thir quarteris; we haue delayit ouer lang I grant, but he will schew zow the cause of al. The nirt best is, ye vse al expeditioun in tyme cumming, aganis the nirt Somer: vtherwayis, ze will tyne credeit heir with zour factours. Gif ze come, zee will find ma Freindis nor euer ze had, bot vtherwise zee will find fewar: because the nirt Somer mony ar bounit to vther Cuntreis, and wil not abide on zow na langer. Haist hame heir some word to zour Friendis, that we may put thame in gude hope of zow, and thay will tary the langer. The bearer is ane honest man, and verie sufficient, ze may credeit him as my self. I suld haue cummit with him my selfe, wer it not I was perswadit that zee wald remaine on our answer, and because I got ane stop out of Flanderis. As the bearer can schew zow, zee haue gottin all that ze desyrit;* thairfoir mak haist. The berar is cummit to zou on his awin charge: thairfoir zee mon haue respect to him. The last berar that ze send, come heir behind the hand, and hes gottin na satisfactioun as zit, because nathing culd be gottin heir, and we culd find na man bot this, that wald pas on his awin

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alwin charge: and I fear, that gif he had not come on his alwin expensis, ze ſuld not haue reſſauit anſwer ſa ſoone: thairfour ze ſuld treat him the better. We will abide here zour ſelf ſchortly, and I wald zee brought the reſt of zour friendis with zou, that ar beyond ſea:* for gif zour block paſſis forduard, they mon be alſo preſent, otherwiſe we mon cum and viſite zow. Al other effairis of this Cuntrie, I will commit to the bearer quha is faithful. Zour wife and zour bairnis* commendis thame to zow, and luikis to ſee zow ſchortly. Gif I or Sandeſoun* zour freind, reſſauis ony ſyluer fra the bearer, ze ſal be aduerteiſt be ane vther tikket, how meikle it is, and ſubſcriuit with baith our handis. The reſt I will refer to the bearer. God preſerue zou euer from al euil. At Dundie the 20. of November. 1592.

The Spaniſh Armie.

The Catholik Romans and their confederates.

M. Robert Abircrumby.

Youris maiſt affectioned
at all his power.
I. Chriſteſoun,*

M. Iames Gordoun.

Direct on the back.
To his aſſured Friend George Craufurd.*

M. William Creichtoun.

A Letter directit fra M. ROBERT ABIRCRVMBY, *to* M. WILLIAM CREICHTOVN, *interceptit with* M. GEORGE KER, *the 27. of December. 1592.*

EFtir my dew and humble ſalutations and offer of ſeruice, I regrait and lamentis hauely the fleuth, & negligence, zour Merchandis hes vſit in anſwering of zour laſt ſuit, ze proponit to thame. For appeirandly, gif they had maid anſwer in dew time, our waris had bene heir in due time, with our great profite and conſolatioun. The ſtay and ſtop of the matter appeirandly, was lack of expenſſis; that na man wald of his own charges, tak that viage in hand: Zea, ſum crauit a thouſand crownis for his expenſis. Swa the matter was anis halelie geuin ouer, and almaiſt clein forzet, vntill it pleiſit God of his diuine prouidence to ſtirre vp this bearer, to take the turne in

hand on his awin expensis: As he hes bene euer bent in that cause, not onely to spend his gudis, but alswa the thing that is mair deir to him, that is, his lyfe: thairfoir, I think he suld be the mair acceptable, as also for the affinitie of bluid, for baith his guddames wes Creichtones: And as for wit and abilitie, of treating of thay effaires, he is not inferiour to nane of your Merchandis quhilk ze desyre, as ze will persaue by experience godwilling. And albeit that he of his couragious liberalitie, & zeal to the cause, hes tane the mater in hand on his awin charges; zit all your freindis in these quarteris, thinkis it very reasonable, that al suld be refounded to him againe, Cum vsura, with promotioun till ony vther accident suld fall out, for the weill and furtherance of this cause, &c. But nowe I will say ane word of him, & syne cum to sum vther purpois of our awin. Gif I had an thousand toungis, with as many mouthes, with Cicerois eloquence, I cannot be worthie eneuch in commendatioun of this Gentilman to zow and all your companie: As I sall let zow vnderstand godwilling, gif euer we sall chance to meit face for face. And thairfoir, whensoeuer ze may, preuent him with ony benefite, either be your selfe or ony vther. Abide not quhill he craue it at zow: for he is the worst asker in his awin cause, that euer ze conuerst with. Sed nunc ad alia. Gif ze be richt remembrit, at your depairting out of this, zee gaue Maister Iames Makcartnay an procuratorie, to intromet with Maister Alexander Homes littill leuing, he hes heir in Eist Lowthiane, the quhilk he pledit and obtenit in Law, and tuke vp zeirly rentis thairof to his awin behuik, and geuis his nane of it. In this meane time, their fallis out sick Cummeris twiching that Land, that we are abill to loise the haill wair first. The said Maister Alexanderis narrest Freinds and airis, hes in Iudgement proued him to be deid, and swa enteris ayris to him. By this, the Laird of Spot, his ouirlord is fourfaltit, and swa the Land wairdis, swa that we ar able to tyne all gif remedie be not found. Quhairfoir, falling in consultatioun with Maister Alexander King, he thocht best to sel the land to him, and we to vse the Siluer on ane mair suir maner, of the quhilk ze sal reciaue sum writingis * from this bearer, the quhilkis ze will

The hyperbolicall and ridiculus commendatioun. Of M. George Ker.

*Thir writtis interceptit with the rest are ane char-

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wsll vnderstand better nor I. Onely I think gif ȝorme of mo-
ȝan be not vsit, we sall lois all, and better is to haue sum thing nor lois all. As to the price set ȝe it doun, for he hes mentioned nane as ȝit; bot he will giue als meikle as ony vther, becanse as he sayis, he hes sum Land lyand contigne to it. I pray ȝou for ane haistie answer of this. I doubt not but ȝee haue heard, how they ȝoung men, quhais Father wes slaine be the Laird of Ruthvenis slew him againe, quhais Lady is mareit to one Iames Reid. Camnay is cum in the Constabillis handis; and ȝour Nevoy is priuat of it, and that be the mopan I trow, of Abraham ȝour brother: bot ȝour Maich is littill better nor beg gand. Drumkilbo is deid, and Thomas Tyrie is tutour. I pray ȝou aduerteis me be quhat maner, Maister Steuin Wilsoun hes cummit be my Lord Leuingstonis Obligatioun, the quhilk ȝee had of the fourtie Crowns his L. wes awin ȝow: For Maister Steuin hes gottin thay fourtie Crownis, Randering the Obligatioun quhilk ȝe had: I durst neuer mak mentioun of the hundreth Crownis fra the Father, and fourty crownis fra the Sone, quhilk ȝe left me power to craue, &c. My Lord Levingstone, is departit of this warld. Ze heard befoir, that Dauid Forester * had ane Sone, and now hes ane vther borne in the Castell of Striueling, quhair he is in waird, hardly handlit. Thair is bot ane of our Nobilitie heir, quhilk hes of the King of Spaine, ane pensioun weill payit of twelue hundreth Crowns. The quhilkis appearandly ar euill bestowit: For he nor nane of his as ȝit, hes neuer done ony kind of gude in the promotioun of the Kingis materis: quhairfoir sick pensiones wer better bestowit on vtheris, quha trauels daylie and hourly, putting in hazard baith their guidis and liues, as this bearer hes done and daylie dois: and vtheris, as he can schewe ȝou, &c. Because I haue na vther thing to write, and haue bein lang eneuch, I commend me to ȝour prayeris, and ȝou to God. At Scotland the 15. of December. 1592.

tour and obligatioun to be past be M. Alexander Home of Palywel to M. Alexãder King, his airis and assignais of four husband landis in the Lord-schip of Spott with a missiue letter direct be him to that effect.

Dauid Grahame of Fentrie.

Inuy amongis the Papistis thameles.

Yours at his power
Robert Sandesoun. * M. Robert Abircrumby.

Direct on the back.
To his traist friend George Craufurd. * M. William Creichtoun.

A LETTER DIRECTIT TO THE KING OF Spaine, be three Noblemen of Scotland, quhairof, twa hes sensyne returnit to the professioun and defence of the treuth, be thair aithis and subscriptiouns, quhairfoir thair names ar suppressit, the third his Name expressit (to wit, the Erle of Huntlie) becausse he continues as zit in his former wicked course. This Letter writtē be thame in the name of the Catholike Noblemen of Scotland, cypherit in French, wes interceptit in Ianuarie 1589. laitly befoir the time of the Raid of the Brig of Die, thairefter wes decypherit word be word, and translatit in Scottis as followis.

They are sory that the Spanisch flote past by, without landing in Scotland.

SIR, we can not sufficientlie expresse be speache, the great regrait we haue conceauit, being frustrate of the helpe wee haue sa long had to see this zeir past, the desyrit affectis fall out quhilk we attendit of zour Maiesties preparatiouns. And our displeasure hes bene sa meikill the greiter, that zour Armie Nauall suld haue passed by sa neir vs, vnvisiting vs, quha expectit the same with sufficient forces for the peaceable receipt and assisting thairof, aganis all enemies, in sik sort, that it suld haue had na resistance in this Cuntrie, and with our support suld haue gevin aneuch ado to England. At least, gif it had cummit heir to refreshe it, it had preseruit a number of Meschels and men, quhilk we know haue perished neir our Ilis, and vpon the coist of Ireland. And had discouerit ane incredible number of Freindis, in full redines to haue run the same fortoun with it, in sik sort, as we dare weill affirme, it suld not haue founde half sa many in England, for all that is spoken be the Englisch Catholikes refugit thair, quha be emulation, or rather be ane vnchristiane enuie extenuatis ouer far our meanis to aid zow, to magnifie thair awin only, and make thame selfis to be esteimit able to do all, to aduance thameselfis thairby, in credit

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with your Maieſtie, and ſik as ar about you: bot the experience of this zeir paſt, hes ſufficientlie teſtifeit, thay haue not ſchawin thamſelfis in ſick number to aſſiſt zour forces as we haue done. And thairfor zour Maieſtie, as maiſt wiſe, as ze ar, ſal gif it pleis zow, mak ſick accompt of the ane, as ze neglect not the vther, and ſa ſerue zon with thame baith, to the end ze pretend, without hazarding zour forces for the particular of the ane or the vther. We remit to the declaration of ſum of zour awin ſubiectis that hes bene heir, the commoditties and aduantages of landing in thir partis, quhair the expenſis beſtowit vpon the equippage of ane Gallaſſe, ſall bring mair fruite to zour ſeruice, than ze may haue of ten vpon the Sey. And wee may aſſure zour Maieſtie, that hauing anis ſax thouſand men heir of zour awin with money, zee may liſt heir forces of this Cuntrie, as leicht as in Spaine, quha will ſerue zow na leſſe faithfully than zour awin naturall ſubiectis. And albeit wee can not without blame of preſumptioun, giue zour Maieſtie aduiſe in zour affayris thair: Allwayis in that, that may concern zour ſeruice heir, wee may ſpeak mair freelie, as being vpon the place, and knawing be ordinary experience mony thingis vnknawin to ony of zours that ar not heir. The our lait arriuall of zour Armie in our watteris, tooke from it the commoditie, to reteir it ſelf in ſick ſafetie, as it micht haue done cumming ſoonar, be reſoun of the great windis that ar ordinar heir in harueſt: as alſwa lack of Pylottis experimented vpon the coiſtes of England, Scotland, and Ireland, appearis to haue bred great harme to the ſaid Armie, quhairunto we culd haue remedeit concerning Scotland, to haue ſend Pilotts from this gif it had likit zour Maieſtie to haue ſerutt zour ſelf with thame. Likewiſe (ſaluing better aduiſe) it ſeemis to vs altogidder vnprofitable to fecht the Armie be ſea, gif it may be eſchewit for mony cauſſes: And amangis vtheris, becauſe ſik as ſall haue fochtin be ſey, ſalbe vnabill, being wearie to feicht againe be Land againſt new forces: Sa the beſt ſuld be, to ſchift be ane way or vther, for ſparing of zour Men and Veſchellis, and ſwa the Engliſch forces ſtaying vpon the Sea vnfochtin, ſal be diſappointed, and ſall not cum in time, to aſſiſt thame that ſalbe

They haue informit the K. of Spanis ſubiects wrak kit heir of the meanis to do gud be landing in Scotland.

Aduiſe to the king of Spain how to aſſaule this Iland heireftir.

Aduise to the king of Spain how to assault this Iland heireafter.

assaylzeit be Land. Attour, sending heir a part of zour forces, befoir the vther quhilk suld go the richt way to England, and that secreitly be the back of Ireland: Zour Maiestie suld compell the Enemie to deuide their forces, and it may be, suld caus thame send the greitest part heir, quhair zee micht mak thame beleiue the greatest part of zour forces wer arryuit, at leist suld cause thame disgarneis as meikle of England, & draw a great part of thair forces, quhilk wald resist zour landing and invasioun on that coist. And we may well promeis, that hauing heir sax thousand of zour men, and money to list vtheris heir, wee suld within sax Oulkis efter thair arryuall be weill farr within England, to approche and assist the forces quhilks zour Maiestie suld caus enter thair. The Knicht William Sempill colonel, can schew zour Maiestie the haill to quhome wee remit. Alswa, we haue causit writ baith befoir, and sen his depart, our mony sik aduises be M. Robert Bruce, and causit addres the same to my Lord Duik of Parme, to quhome zour Maiestie remittit vs from the beginning in thir effayris. And seeing we hope zour Maiestie is de wlie aduertesit and informit, wee will end the present, kissing maist humblie zour Maiesteis hand. Praying God with all our affectioun, to grant zou full accomplischment of all zour holy interprises. From Edinburgh this 24. of Januarie. 1589.

With 6000. men sent frō Spain, & money to leuie a power in Scotland, they will in sax Oulks be far in Engl̄d

Bruce is the mouth of these Lordis, to the King of Spain and Duke of Parme.

Zour Majesteis maist humble and affectioned
Seruitours. G. Erle *Huntlie*, & cet.
In name of the vther Lordis
Catholikes in Scotland.

A Letter direct fra the Erle of HVNTLIE, *to the Duik of* PARME, *interceptit in Ianuarie, &c.*

Letters ressauit fra the D. of Parme be

My Lord, I haue ressauit from Iohn Chesholme, the Letteris it pleisit zour Hienes to write, the 13. of October, full of maist Christiane affectioun to the weill of our cause: For the

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the quhilkis, I giue zour hienes maist humbill thankis. The support of ten thousand Crounis sent to that end, is ressauit be M. Robert Bruce quhilkis sall not be employit bot for help of the maist vrgent necessitie of the said cause, as it hes pleisit zour hienes to direct. Efter the departure of Colonel Sempill, I haue found my self sa boistit on all handis, and preassit in sik sort, be our King, that it behuisit me to zeild to the extreame difficultie of tyme, and subscriue with his Maiestie, not with my heart, the Confessioun of thair Faith: or vtherwise, I had bene forced immediately to haue depairtit the Cuntrie, or to haue taken the Feildis for resisting his forces, and sik as hee micht haue drawin out of England to his aide, quhilk I could not haue done, specially then, when be the returning of zour Armie in Spain, all hope of help was taken from vs: bot gif on the ane pairt I haue faillit, be the apprehensioun of dangers that threitned my ruyne, I sal on the vther pairt endeuour my selfe to amend my fault, (quhairof I repent me with all my heart) be sein effect, tending to the weill and aduancement of the cause of God, quha hes put me in sik credeit with his Maiestie, that sen my cumming to Court, he hes broken his former Gairdis, and causit me establis vtheris about his person of my men, be the moyen of quhome and their captaines, quha ar also mine, I may euer be Maister of his persoun: And zour support being arryuit, spuilzie the heretickis of his authoritie, to fortifie and assure our interprises: quhairupon I beseik zour Hienes to send me zour auise, and to assure zour self of my vnchangeable affectiones in my former resolutions, albeit the outward actions be forced to conforme thame selfis, sumtimes to necessitie of occasiouns, as M. Robert Bruce, will mair ampillie write to zour Hienes, to quhome I remit me farther. Praying God, efter I haue maist humblie kissit zour Hienes hand, to giue zou accomplischment of zour holy interprises. From Edinburgh the 24. of Januarie. 1592.

John Cheshulme.

Suppoirt of 10000. crownis fra the D. of Parme.

He dissemblis his Religioun for feare and pollicie.

Hee hes establisched gardis about the King at his awin deuotion to be Maister of his persoun quhen occasion sall offer.

Your hienes maist humble and affectioned Seruitour,
G. Erle of *Huntlie*.

A Letter fra the Erle of ERROL, to the Duke of PARME, intercepti: in Ianuarie, &c.

MY Lord, sen God of lait be the cleir licht of his holy Catholik faith, hes chaisit from my vnderstanding, the darknes of ignorance and errour, quhairin I haue bene heirtofore nurischit: I haue bene als soone perswadit in acknawledging of sa great an effect of his diuine grace towardis mee, that I am chefly obligit to procure, sen I knaw the interpryses of his Maiestie Catholik, and zour hienes tendis principally to that end, as also to the aduancement of some cruill cause quhilk hes verie great affinitie, and communioun with ouris heir. That I mon testifie be the present, the affectioun that I haue to the weill of the ane and the vther, hauing euer befoir my conuersioun bene ane of the number of zour freindis and seruitours for the respect of the lait, to the quhilkis, the first of Religioun, quhilk is the greatest and maist important that is in the warld, being ioynit thairto, I am also become altogidder zours: quhilk I beseik maist humblie zour Hienes cause be signifeit to his Maiestie Catholik, and to promeis him in my behalfe, that he hes not in this Cuntrie a mair affectioned seruand than I, nather zit zour Hienes, as ze sal vnderstand mair amplie of my intentioun in particular, be him be quhome zour hienes sall resaue this present. To quhom efter I haue maist humblie kissit zour hand, I beseik the Creator, to giue zow the accomplischment of zour holy desyris. From Edinburgh, this 24. of Ianuarie. 1589.

The causses of the Papists ar inseperable, for the K. of Spains seruice.

Zour hienes maist humble and maist affectioned Seruiteur,
Francis erle of *Errell*.

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A Letter fra ROBERT BRVCE, *to Monsieur Francisce Aguirre Espaignell &c. interceptit in Ianuarie, 1589. writtin in Frenche, and translatit in Scottis as followis.*

MOnsieur de Aguirre, I haue ressauit zour Letter, of the nynt of Neuember, writtē from Handwerp, quhairby, I wes glaid to vnderstand of zour arryual thair and helth, and that ze haue gydit zour self sa wisely in executioun of all that I committed to zou. Zour Maister, quha at my requeist hes geuin zow intertenement, hes geuin me the like testimonie of zour behauiour, and hes promeist me be his Letteris, to haue zou in the fauorable commendatioun I desyrit, and to employ zou in good occasiones. Gif he send zou heir againe in thir pairtis, cause set zou on land neir Seytoun, quhair I pray zow to enter secreitly, and thair zee salbe keipit, quhil I may cum and finde zow. &c.

The rest of this missiue being set doun in obscure termes, is to be seene in the originall.

A Letter fra ROBERT BRVCE, *to the Duke of* PARME, *interceptit in Ianuarie. 1589. Laitly befoir the Raid of the Brig of Die: Cipherit in Frenche, decipherit thairefter, and translatit in Scottis as followis.*

MY Lord, Monsieur Chesholme, arryuit in this Cuntrie siue dayis efter his departing from thair, and with requisite diligence, com to the Erle of Huntlie in his awin house in Dunfermeling, quhair hauing presented to him zour Hienes Letteris, of the 13. of October, he declarit amplie to him the

Letters sent be Iohn Chesholme from the D. of Par-

me to the Erl of Huntlie, & receauit be him at Dunfermeling.

the credit geuin him in charge, conforme to the tenour of the Letteris from zour hienes: quhairin thay perceauit zour hienes great humanitie and affection, to the aduancement of the glorie of God in this Cuntrie, with vtheris consolations maist conuenient, to moderate the dolour and displesour conceaut be the hartis of the Catholikes, be resoun of the succes of zour armie, againſt thair hope and expectatioun. Alswa, sum dayis thaireftir, as the commoditie offerit to me to reſſaue the money, the said Chesholme delyuerit to me sax thousand, twa hundreth thre scoir twelue Crounis of the Sun, and thre thousand seuin hundreth Spanisch Piſtolets: And likewise hes careit himselfe in all his actiouns sensyne very wisely, and as becomes a man of God: Cheiflie then, quhen vpon the suspiton conceauit of his sa sodane returning, the King sent to gar take him. I sall behaue my selfe be the grace of God, in the keeping and deſtributioun of the money last sent, and of that quhilk reſtis zit of the first sowme, according to zour Hienes prescriptioun, and as I aucht to answer to God in conscience, and to zour Hienes in credeit, and to the haill warld in the reputatioun of ane honeſt mã: And sal mainage it in sik sort, that be the grace of God, thair sall be fruit drawin thairof pleasant to zour hienes. It is trew, that I find, (as all vtheris wald do, that wald interprise sik a charge heir) my self inuolwit in gret difficulties: For on the ane pairt, I am in great danger of the Hereticks, and of thame of the faction of England, be resoun of the oppin profeſſioun that I make of the Catholik Religioun, and of the suspitioun, that the laſt hes of my secreit practises and dealing aganis thame: On the vther part, I haue meikill ado to moderate the appetite that sum Catholik Lordis hes, to haue the money presently, for the hope quhilk thay giue of sum pretendit occasiouns, that will neuer fall out as they promeis. The Erle of Huntlie made inſtance to haue the third pairt of the sowme quhilk wes sent heir, als soone as it wes delyuerit to me: bot he hes not tuicht, nor sall not tuich heirafter a mailze bot vpon gude takinnis. I haue payit him in the meane time, with inexpugnabill reasonnis, quhairof in the end he is contented. I beseik zour hienes, be the firſt Letter it sall pleis zow to

500ôo. Crounis receauit from the D. of Parme, be Bruce to be employed for the K. of Spanis seruice in Scotland.

The money is to be distributed amang the Catholike nobilitie of Scotland.

The Erle of Huntlie, wald haue a third part to himselfe.

wryte,

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write in thir pairtis, to the Catholike Lordis, to remoue ane errour from thre, quha hes written thair in name of the remanent, that moues thame to think, be reasoun they war the first that maid offer of thair seruice to the King Catholik, that all the money that cummis heir, suld be pairted in thre, and Immediatly efter the arryuall thairof delyuerit to thame, without geuing pairt to vtheris, quhilk beside thame are in great number to the King Catholikes seruice, and zouris; and alswa deliberat to hazard efter thair power for the aduancement of this cause, as they ar; of quhome the vtheris will not depend in ony sort, in the accepting of the moyanis that cummis from zour liberalitie, bot acknawledge thame as cumming directly from zour Hienes, to quhome onely they will be bound and obleist, and not to the vther thre. Of the quhilkis, the Erle of Mortoun, hes hitherto contented himself with reasoun: As alswa the Erle of Huntlie, hes neuer schawin himselfe subiect to money, but sen he hes bene inducit be the third, to wit, my Lord Claud hammiltoun * his vncle, quha is sum quhat couetous of geir, and thocht vnder sik pretext to make his profeit. The said Erle of Huntlie, is constranit to remaine at Court; he is fallen from his constancie in his outward profession of the Catholike Religioun, pairtly, for hauing loist all esperance of zour support befoir the returning of the saide Chesholme, because of his lang stay there, pairtly by the perswasioun of sum politikes, pairtly to eschew the parrellis imminent to al thame that callis thameselfis Catholikes, pairtly to keip him selfe in the fauour of his King, quha preissit him greitly to subscriue the Confession of the heretickis, and to league with England. Bot for all this, his hart is na wise alienat from our cause: for he hes the saull euer gude, albeit he haue not sik vigour to perseuere, and execute sik, as is requisit in sa great ane interprise: bot thay may help thay defectis, putting beside him a man of credeit, resolute to assist him, as we haue aduised to do, sen the Baron of Fentrie is put in waird be the King, in the Toun of Dundie: Swa that he dar not gang out of the portis thairof, vnder the paine of a greit sowme, quhill the occasioun may be offerit to depairt the Cuntrie, within the time limited. And I

Quhat euer this noblemā hes bein at this time, it is not to be object it to him now efter his aith and subscription geuin to the contrair.

The Erle of Huntly, dissēblis his Religioun first, for feare and policie, efter to work his matteris the better.

be the Kingis Commandement, am dischargeit to cum neir the said Erle: becauſe they haue attributed to the said Laird of Fentrie, and me, his conſtancie in the Catholike Religion, and his abſence from Court aganis the Kingis wil: His wairding hes ſum quhat hinderit our courſe, and permittis mee not to moue him, as it hes pleiſit zou to commaund me, and as I deſyre to diſpence the money coniunctly with me: ſa that for ſuppleing of the default of him, I haue aſſociat to the ſame end, a very honeſt man, & very wiſe, callit Father William Creichtoun Ieſuiſt, quha wes detenit ſum zeiris in the toun of Lundoun, efter he wes tane, vpon the Sea, cummand toward this from France. Likewiſe, I ſall help my ſelfe be the prudence of Schir Iames Cheſholme, eldeſt brother to the ſaid Iohn, quha brocht the money from zour Hienes: For hee is a man confident, wiſe, ane on our pairt, and very littil ſuſpect. In the mean tyme, the ane pairt of the money, is in the principall houſe of my Lord Leuingſtoun, a very Catholike Lord, the vther heir in Edinburgh, in great aneuch ſuirtie, to help as it ſall neid the Lordis Catholikes, quha wil conuein very ſoone heir to reſiſt, to the deſeingis of thame of the factioun of England, quha in the ſame tyme, are purpoſit to remaine at Court, with forces to range all thingis at thair fantacie. As for the like ſowme or greater, quhilk zour Hienes willis to cauſe follow the laſt ſent heir: It is gude in all euentis, it wer very ſoone ſent heir, ſecreitly to help the neceſſitie that may fal out, & to cauſe thingis incline to our ſide, quhen thay ar in ballance, as there is great appearance they will be, be the occaſioun forſaid: And incaſe that neceſſitie requiris na deſtributioun, the ſaid ſowme ſall be keipit, and reſeruit to better occaſiouns, or quhill the arryuall of zour forces in this Ile. Thair is ſuſpition, as alſo argumēts probable eneuch, that Thomas Tyrie, quha hes brocht heir zour Hienes Letters to our King, hes not behauit himſelfe according to his dewtie: For he hes accommodat him ſelfe in his behaiuour, mair efter the affectioun of our Chancellar (quha is of the factioun of England, and abuſes the credeit he hes with the King) nor according to the Inſtructiouns geuin him thair. He hes not preſentit nor maid mentioun to the King of Colonell

Sir Iames Cheſholme, brother to Iohn Cheſholme a confederate.

The money is in my L. Leuingſtonis cheif houſe, and at Edinburgh, to ſerue the Catholike noblemens turnis that ar ſhortly to aſſēble.

Mair money promeſit be the Duke of Parme.

It is meanit that Spaniſh forces ſuld arryue in this Iland.

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nell Sempillis Letter, quhairof I haue causit present the copie to his Maiestie be the Erle Bouthwell, as gif it had bein sent to him with ane vther of the said Colonellis to himself, quhilk he ressauit from Thomas Tyrie at his arryuall, quha hes reported to the said Chancelar all that Seigneur don Bernardino spake to him in Pareis to the disaduantage of the said Chancellar. Alswa, he hes reportit to the King, that my L. Bischop of Dumblane, being returnit thair, spak to your Hienes, and to vtheris mony thingis, to the great preiudice of his Hienes: And it is beleeued also, that hee is the cause of the suspitioun quhilk is conceuit of the cumming of the said Iohn Chesholm, newlie to the said Bischop. Howeuer it be, the vther reportis foirsaid, quhilkis he hes maid, hes not seruit to conciliat, bot to alienate the affectioun of the King, of the Chancelar, and mony vtheris Heretickis, from the said Seigneur don Bernardino, the said Bischop, and Catholikes heir, that hes had ado with thame. As for me, albeit I speak not willinglie to the disauantage of ony quhatsumeuer, cheiflie of thame quhome I haue recommendit, as I did the saide Thomas Tyrie, to the said Don Bernardino, zit I will preferre the luif of the treuth to men, and wald not in concealing thairof, bring preiudice to the publict weill, nor to the fidelitie that the ane aucht to vtheris; and specially to that we aucht all to the King of Spain, and your Hienes, to quhome I am presently seruand particularly addicted be the Obligatioun of fiue hundreth Crounis of fee, and fourtie for monethly intertenement, quhilk it hes pleasit your Hienes, to giue me freelie in name of the King of Spain, vnbeing requirit for my pairt, nor vther thing for my particular to this present: be reasoun quhairof, I am the mair bound to giue your hienes maist humble thanks, and to endeuour my selfe to deserue be my maist humble and faithfull seruices, als weill the said intertenement, as the recompense it hes pleisit your hienes to promeis me of your grace and fauour. The said gift of your liberalitie, come to me weill to purpois, seeing bee reasoun of the danger of my persoun, it behouit me to augment my ordinair tryne for my greater suirtie, quhilk I wes not able langer to haue borne out without helpe. For from all the

William Chesholm

Thay compt our King amangis the heretickis

Bruce seruid to the King of Spain, and to the D. of Parme, hes ane pensioun of 40. crounis in the moneth, & 500. crounis of ferill

Bruce hes negotiatit in Spain with the K. and in the law cuntreis with the D. of Parme.

Lordis of Scotland, I haue not retyrit bot a part onely of the money, quhilk I spendit traueling, for the weill of this cause in Spain with his Maiestie Catholik, and with your Hienes in the low cuntreis. As for the four hundreth Crounis, imployit for the deliuerance of Colonell Sempill out of preſoun, I haue put it in compt with the remanent quhilk I deburſit of the firſt ſowme, accoirding as it hes pleaſit your Hienes to commaund me. The Erle of Mortoun * to quhome I haue geuin conſolation be writ in Preſoun, hes inſtantly praied me alſo be writ, to remember his maiſt affectioned ſeruice to your hienes. Finding himſelf greatly honourit, be the care it pleiſit you to haue of him. Be the grace of God, he is na mair in danger of his life be way of iuſtice; It not being poſſible to his enemeis to proue againis him ony thing quhilk they had ſuppoſit in his accuſatioun: As alſo the Kingis affectioun not ſa far alienate fra him, as it hes bein heirtofore: And meais thay wald noye him, or that it war preſently requiſite for the weill of our cauſe to deliuer him, we haue euer moyane to get him out of Preſoun, and abydis not in the meane tyme, bot the Kingis wil toward his libertie, onely to avoid all perſuit that thay wald mak, gif we delyuerit him extraordinarie. Quhen they offerit him in the Kingis name his libertie, gif he wald ſubſcriue the Confeſſioun of the heretickis Faith, he anſwerit, hee wald not do it for the Kingis croun, nor for a hundreth thouſand liues, gif hee had thame to loſe; And hes offerit to confound the Miniſteris be publict diſputatioun. I ſall ſolicite the Lordis his freindis to procure of the King, his libertie very ſoone: For he importes mair the weil of our cauſe, nor ony of the reſt, be reaſoun of his forces quhilkis are neir England, and the principall Toun of Scotland, and the ordinair reſidence of our King; As alſwa he is the Lord the maiſt reſolute, conſtant, and of greateſt execution of ony of the Catholikes. It is na ſmall maruell conſidering the moyanis the heretickis hes to harme vs, and thair warldly wit ſa far paſſing ouris, and thair euill will and intentioun againſt vs that we ſubſiſt. Trewlie, wee cannot bot attribute the effect thairof to God, quha (then quhen the certain newis of the returning of the Armie of Spain be the backe of Ireland,

Quhatsuer this Noblemanhes bein. at this tyme it is not to be obiectit to him, now efter his aith & ſubſcription geuin to the contrair, gif he remaine conſtant.

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Ireland, wer dispersit throch this Cuntrie, and the heretickis of the factioun of England triumphit, and the constancie in the outward professioun of the Erle of Huntlie and vtheris wes brangkit) causit the Erle of Angus to die, quha wes cheif of the Englisch factioun, and the self same time suscitat sum discentioun amangis the heretickis, be reasoun of some offices, that sum pretendit to vsurpe aboue vtheris at Court, and be the instant prayeris and haly persuasiouns of twa fatheris Iesuists, conuertit to our haly faith, twa heretick Erlis of the first of authoritie and power amangis thame, the ane quhairof is callit the Erle of Erroll, constable of Scotland, conuertit be Father Edmond Hay. The vther callit the Erle of Craufurde, conuertit be the said father William Creichtoun. They are baith abill and wise young Lordis, and maist desyrous to aduance the Catholike faith, and zour interprises in this Ile, quhilk they ar deliberat to testifie to his Maiestie Catholike, and zour hienes be thair awin Letters, quhilk be the grace of God, I sall send be the first commoditie. In the meane tyme, they haue requyrit me to mak zou offer of thair maist humble and maist affectioned seruice, promeising to follow quhat sumeuer the saidis Iesuistis and I sall think gude to be done, for the conseruatioun of the Catholiks, and to dispose and facilitat the executioun of zour enterprises heir, quhilk they may doe mair easilie, nor they that are knawin to be Catholickis, quhais actions ar euer suspitious to the heretickis for thair Religioun, quhairof thir twa Erlis hes not zit maid outward professioun: bot in that as in the rest, thay submit thameselfis to our will, & to that we finde maist expedient. The saidis Fatheris of that companie, makis great fruit in Scotland, and sa soone as ane Lord or vther persoun of importance is conuertit bee thame, they dispose and inclyne in the very meane time their affectioun to the seruice of the King of Spain, and zour Hienes as a thing inseparablie conioyned with the aduancemẽt of the true Religioun in this Cuntrie. Gif I had commandement of zour Hienes, I wald giue thame sum littill Almons in zour name to help thame and aucht vtheris, quhairof four ar also Iesuists, and the vther four ar seminarie Preistis of Pontawmoussone

The King of Spain, and D. of Parme, hes interprises to be executed in Scotland.

The Iesuists & Priestis do great hurt in Scotland.

Heirof it is euident, that the declining to Papistrie drawis with it defection fra our native Kingis obedience, to the seruice of the K. of Spain & D. of Parme.

in Lorane, quhilkis ar all the Ecclesiasticks, that produtis sa great spirituall fruite in Scotland, and acquyris to zou heir sik augmentatioun of zour freindis and seruandis. Efter the parting of Colonell Sempill from this, the Lordis sent Letteris with the said father Creichtoun and vther Gentilmen, efter the Armie of Spain, to caus it land in this Cuntrie; bot it had taken the way to Spain few dayis befoir their arryuall at the Iles, quhair it had refreschit the selfe: sa that it wes not possible for thame to attend on it. Thay of this cuntrie, that are of the factioun of England, wer in a maruelous fear, during the incertitude of the landing of the said Armie, and confessis plainly, gif it had landit heir, thay had bein allutterly wrakkit. The Erle Boithwell, quha is Admirall of Scotland, and als galzeart a Lord as ony is in the Cuntrie, albeit he mak professioun of the new Religioun, zit is he extremely desyrous to assist zou aganis England, hauing liftit and interteneit all this Somer, (vnder pretext to ga vantoun the Iles) sum trowpis of men of weir, quhilk togidder with his forces ordinaris suld haue toynit with zouris gif thay had cummit heir. He sufferis himselfe to be peaceablie gydit be me, notwithstanding the diuersitie of our Religioun; and hes oftentimes said, that gif the Catholiks wald giue him suirtie to posses efter the restitution of the Catholikes Religioun, twa Abbaies quhilk he hes, that he suld euen presently be altogether ane of ours. Hee intendis to send the Colonell Halkerstoun, to accompanie certaine Captains and gentilmen to Spain, and almaist four hundreth Souldeouris, all saif from the Naufrage in our Iles. And because thay ar in great necessitie, he is purposed to accommode thame with Schippis, victuallis, & vther thingis necessair, to testifie thairby to the King of Spain, the affectioun he hes to do him maist humble and affectioned seruice: And gif we think it gude, hes offerit himselfe to ga out of the Cuntrie, and to ga offer himselfe to zour Hienes, in the law Cuntries, and be zour aduise thairefter, do the like to his Maiestie Catholike in Spain. Bot heirupoun, we sall aduise vpon the maist expedient: Gif wee may alwayis be assurit of him, he will be als profitable for the weill of our cause, as ony Lord in Scotland: For he hes great depen-

The Papist Lordis did sende be Creichtoun, to moue the Spanish flote to land in Scotland.

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dependance about this tonn, quhilk is the principall of Scotland, as alswa, vpon the fronterris of England. He hes offerit to mantaine and defend me aganis al that wald attempt aganis me. We haue chosen for euery Catholike Lord, a Gentleman of the wisest and faithfull Catholikes, and beloutt of thair freindis, to serue thame of a Counsall, and to conuene at al occasions, to resolue the maist expedient that may concerne the weill of our cause, according to the will and intentioun of thair Lordis, quha hes obleist thamselfis, to approue & execute thair resolutiouns, and nawise to contrauene the same: And be that moyan, we hope to proceed with greater solidities and effect, than we haue done heirtofoir. Alwayis thir sall knaw na thing of our intelligencis thair, nor our finall intentiouns, bot according to the exigence of the effayris salbe in hand, and that superficially, and without discouering our selfis ouer farre. Your Hienes sall vnderstand bee the particulair Letteris of the Lordis, that quhilk restis to be said to zow by thir presentis: Be reasoun quhairof, I will make end, maist humbly kissing zour Hienes handis: And prayand God to giue zow al the gude hope and felicitie zee desyre. From Edinburgh, the 24 of Ianuarie. 1589.

A counsell of chosen men, for euery Catholik Lord ane erected be Bruce, for the executioun of Catholik interprises

Your Hienes maist humble and
maist affectioned seruitour,
Robert Bruce.